

FEDERAL LEGISLATION, DECISIONS, ORDERS, ETC.

Civilian Production Administration

MANILA HEMP: The termination of import restrictions on Manila hemp (abaca) effective immediately was announced November 18 by the Civilian Production Administration. At the same time CPA announced that it had canceled its directive to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to purchase this fiber from the Philippine Islands except as necessary to complete outstanding commitments.

Termination of the import restrictions on abaca was accomplished by removing it from List A of General Imports Order M-63.

The CPA action returning Manila hemp to private trade does not indicate an end of the shortage of Manila fiber, which has been acute since the Japanese invasion of the Philippine Islands. The total supply presently available for export from this source is estimated at less than half the prewar rate of approximately 400,000,000 pounds annually. For this reason, domestic controls over the use of Manila fiber will remain in effect under Order M-84. Manila fiber is used in the manufacture of rope.

Termination of the public purchase program in the Philippines and the ending of import restrictions were the result of negotiations initiated by the Philippine Government to reestablish a free market in this commodity which represents one of the principal exports of the Islands.

Import controls over Manila fiber have been in effect since April 1943. However, this fiber is one of the strategic and critical materials which were made subject to stockpiling prior to Pearl Harbor.

Other hard fibers such as sisal and henequen are also in extremely short supply and remain under M-63 import control, as well as domestic control under M-84. The Dutch East Indies, one of the principal prewar sources of sisal, is not yet producing for export. Altogether, the present and foreseeable domestic supply of all hard fibers is less than half the civilian demand.

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TEXTILE BAGS: Controls on the manufacture, delivery, and use of textile bags, both cotton and burlap, were removed November 22 by the Civilian Production Administration with the revocation of Orders M-221 and M-47.

These controls had been established to assure bags for essential uses. In removing controls, CPA said that the supply of cotton for bags has increased rapidly during the year and demand should be met. Since cotton and burlap are in many ways interchangeable in the manufacture of bags, continuance of controls over burlap bags was considered needless.

The burlap order, M-47, issued December 22, 1941, controlled the sale and use in the United States of burlap imported from India. Revocation of this order will not relieve our tight burlap supply situation, since the Government of India

sets up on a world-wide basis, the export quotas on jute goods and also jute, from which burlap is made.

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TIN: Continuation of controls throughout 1947 on tinplate used in the manufacture of food containers was recommended at a November meeting of the Can Manufacturers Industry Advisory Committee, the Civilian Production Administration stated on November 18.

This action followed a CPA report to the committee that tin would continue in critical supply throughout 1947.

CPA's tin container order (M-81) specifies that 70 percent of all tinmill production must be channelled to container manufacturers for packaging perishable foods and certain pharmaceuticals. Also, the tin conservation order (M-43) restricts the use of tin to such containers and a number of other essential products.

The M-81 order must be continued in approximately its present form, industry members said, to forestall a serious shortage of packaged foods in 1947. Both the M-81 and M-21 orders will lapse when the Second War Powers Act expires on March 31, 1947, CPA said.

The 1947 world supply of tin, according to CPA estimates, will total about 141,600 tons, a 47,200-ton increase over the expected 1946 supply. However, world demand is expected to increase to 190,000 tons next year. The 1946 screened requirements totaled 145,600.

United States needs are expected to jump to 85,000 tons next year, an increase of 24,900 tons over 1946. While the United States will obtain its pro-rata share of the expected world increase in output next year, it is obvious, the Committee said, that if the world supply continues inadequate, this country's pro-rata share will also be insufficient to meet unrestricted tinplate demands, and the Committee, therefore, urged that controls be continued.



Department of Agriculture

CANNED FISH: The United States canned fish supply will be smaller for the 1946-47 pack year than in 1945-46, but civilians will get a larger share of it, according to revised allocations announced November 19 by the Department of Agriculture. The revised estimate of the canned fish supply for the 12 months beginning July 1, 1946, is 645 million pounds, excluding squid in the amount of 26 million pounds. The supply allocated for the preceding year totaled over 680 million pounds. Civilians have been allocated 473 million pounds of this year's supply--about 15 percent more than the 410 million pounds they were allocated in 1945-46. Allocated for export are 150 million pounds of canned fish. Last year, exports totaled over 200 million pounds. Allocations for military and war service requirements are only 6 million pounds this year, while 51 million pounds were allocated for this purpose in 1945-46.

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CANNED FISH ALLOCATION, 1946-47: The International Emergency Food Council, on November 12, announced the removal from international allocation of several kinds of canned fish, including shellfish (with the exception of crawfish from South Africa) and specialty packs. Recommended international allocations of canned fish now apply only to the following kinds: salmon, herring (including kippered snacks), alewives, pilchards, sardines, brisling, sild, tuna, mackerel, cod and related species (e.g. fish flakes or chicken haddie), and crawfish from South Africa.

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FATS AND OILS: Output of fats and oils in the United States in the year beginning October 1946 will be the smallest since 1939, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced on November 23. Production from domestic materials is forecast at 8.7 billion pounds, about equal to the average for the 1937-41 crop years but 2.5 billion pounds less than the peak production of 11.2 billion pounds in 1943-44.

Factory and warehouse stocks of fats and oils on October 1 totaled 1,209 million pounds, 441 million pounds less than a year earlier and 697 million pounds below the 1932-41 average. Consumption of fats and oils in the United States may increase only slightly in the year beginning October 1946, despite the prospect for some increase in imports. Civilian consumption of fats per person in 1945-46 was the lowest since the depression year 1933. Soap manufacture may be somewhat larger in 1946-47 than in 1945-46, with improvement resulting principally from the greater availability of coconut oil.

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NORWEGIAN CANNED FISH: The Department of Agriculture announced on November 12 that Norwegian canned fish have been removed from import controls of WFO-63. This action became effective on November 8, 1946, with the issuance of Amendment 16 to the food order. Canned fish in some countries, including Norway, are under allocation by the International Emergency Food Council. It has been determined, however, that the supply of canned fish in Norway and the export controls in that country covering this commodity are sufficient to warrant the removal of the controls on such imports from that country. Officials pointed out that it is necessary to obtain from the Department of Agriculture licenses for the importation of canned and salted fish from other countries, as well as salted fish from Norway, either for domestic consumption or for transshipment. It was announced, however, that licenses would be granted freely for transshipment through the United States to foreign destinations of all types of fish products remaining under control of the order.

